THE HISTORY Of the Noble Marquis of SALUS AND Patient GRISSEL.

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The History of Patient GRISSEL.

CHAP. I.

The Marquis of Salus is sollicited by his Nobles to Marry; he consents, and falls in Love with a poor Countrymans Daughter.

BEtween the mountains of Italy and France, towards the South, lies the territory of Salus, a country flourishing with excellent towns, and some castles; and peopled with the best sort of gentry and pheasants.—Among them lived not long since a nobleman of great reputation and honour, who was Lord of the country, and by name GUALTER, Marquis of Salus; to whom, as the government appertained by his right of inheritance, their obedience attended by desert of his worthiness. He was young in years, a

ner had thought of marriage until preſſed to it by the deſires and petitions of his people, who often importuned him thereto.—At laſt he conſented to it, and fame ſoon ſpread the report abroad, and each Princeſs was filled with hopes of being the Marquis's happy partner.

All this time the Marquis continued his hunting, and uſually reſorted to a lit-

le village not far from Selus, where lived a poor countryman named Janicola, over ore in years, and overcome with diſtreſs ving nothing to make his life comfortle but an only daughter, who was exding beautiful, modeſt, and virtuous. t as fire will not lay hid where there is ter of combuſtibles, ſo virtue cannot

be obſcured if there is tongues and ears for the report of her reached the Marquis, who being ſatisfied of the truth, and finding her a fit woman to be his wife, reſolved to forward the buſineſs.— In the mean time the court was furniſhed, a crown and rich apparel prepared for the Queen; but who ſhe was the Nobles all wondered, and the damſels marvelled; while the people in general flocked to ſee who was to be the happy woman.— At laſt the nuptial day arrived, and each one looked for a bride, but who ſhe was the next chapter muſt diſcover.

CHAP

CHAP. II.

The Marquis demands, and marries the old Mans Daughter.

WHEN all things were prepared, the Noble Marquis took with him a great company of Earls. Lords, Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen, Ladies, and Attendants, and went from the palace into the country, towards Janicola's house, where the fair maid Griſſel, ignorant of what had happened, or of what was to come, had made herſelf and houſe clean, determining with the reſt of the neighbouring virgins to ſee this ſolemnity; at which inſtant arrived the Marquis with his company, meeting Griſſel with two pitchers

of water, which ſhe was carrying home. He aſked her where her father was? She anſwered in the houſe.—Go then replied he, and tell him I would ſpeak with him. The poor man came forth to him ſomewhat abaſhed, until the Marquis taking him by the hand, ſaid, That he had a ſecret to impart to him; and taking him from the reſt of the company, ſpoke to him in the following manner:

"Janicola,

"I know thou always lovedſt me, and am ſatisfied thou doſt not hate me now; you have been pleaſed when I have been pleaſed, and you will not now be ſorrowful if I am ſatisfied; nay, I am ſure if it lies your in power, you will further my delight; for I come with intention of begging your daughter to be my wife; and I to be your ſon-in-law; will you take me for your friend, as I have choſe you for a father."

The poor old man was ſo aſtoniſhed, that he could not ſpeak for Joy, but when the extaſy was over, he thus faintly replied:

"Moſt gracious Sovereign,

"You are my Lord, and therefore I muſt agree to your will; but you are generous, and therefore take her in God's name, and make me a glad father; and let that God which raiſeth up the humble and meek, make her a befitting wife and a fruitful mother."

Why then quoth the Marquis, let us enter your houſe, for I muſt aſk her a queſtion before you. So he went in the company tarrying without in vaſt aſtoniſhment. — The fair maid was buſied in making ſtore handſome as ſhe could, and proud to have ſuch a gueſt under her roof, amazed why he came ſo accompanied, little conjecturing ſo great a bleſſing; but at laſt the Marquis took hold of her hand and uſed theſe ſpeeches. — To tell you this bluſh becomes you, were but a folly, or that your modeſty has graced your comlineſs, is unbecoming my greatneſs; but in one word, your father and I have agreed to make you my wife, therefore delays ſhall not entangle your with unfit ſpicion, nor two days longer protract your kindneſs, only I muſt be ſatisfied in this, if your heart affords willing entertainment

to the motion, and your virtue and constancy to the following resolution; that is, Not to repine at my pleasure in any thing, nor presume on contradiction when I command; for as good soldiers must obey without disputing the business, so must virtuous wives dutifully consent without reproof; therefore, be advised how you answer, and I charge thee take heed that thy tongue utters no more than thy heart conceits." — All this time was Griſſel wondering at theſe words; but thinking nothing impoſſible with God, made the Marquis the following anſwer:

"My gracious Lord,

"I am not ignorant of your greatneſs, and know my own weakneſs. There is nothing worthy in me to be your ſervant, therefore can have no deſert to be your wife. Notwithſtanding, becauſe God is the author of miracles, I yield to your pleaſure, and praiſe him for the fortune. Only this I will be bold to ſay, That your will ſhall be my delight; and death ſhall be more welcome to me, than a word of diſpleaſure againſt you.

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After this the Ladies adorned Griſſel with robes befitting her ſtate; the Marquis and all the company returned back to Salus, where in the Cathedral, in the ſight of the people, according to the fullneſs of religious ceremonies they were by the prieſt eſſentially joined together.

CHAP. III.

Lady Griſſel's Patience tried by the Marquis.

TO the other bleſſinge, in proceſs of time, there was added the birth of a daughter, that rejoiced the mother, and gladded the father; the country triumphed, and the people clapped their hands for joy. — Notwithſtanding this, fortune had a trick to check her pride; and proſperity muſt be ſeaſoned with ſome croſſes, or elſe it would corrupt us too much. — Whereupon the Marquis determined to prove his wife, and to make trial of her virtues indeed: and ſo taking a convenient ſeaſon, after the child was weaned he one day repaired ſecretly to her chamber, and ſeeming angry, imparted to her ſome of his mind.

The lady hearing him, ſorrowfully apprehended the Marquis's reſolution to her grief (though every word was like an arrow in her ſide) yet admitted of the temptation, and diſputing with herſelf to what

end the virtues of patience, modesty, forbearance, fortitude, and magnanimity was ordained, if they had not proper subjects to work upon.

When the Marquis saw her constancy, he was pleased with her modest behaviour, and said but little at that time, but between joy and fear departed; resolving to make a farther trial of her.

CHAP. IV.

The Marquis's Daughter is taken from her Mother, and ſent to Bologne to be there brought up.

NOT long after this conference between the Marquis and his Lady, he called a faithful ſervant, to whom he impatted the ſecret, and what he meant to do with his child; and then ſent him to his wife with an unſavoury meſſage.—When ſhe had heard him out, remembering the conference the Marquis had with her, and apprehending there was no room for diſpute, feared it was ordained to die; ſo ſo taking it up in her arms with a mothers bleſſing ſhe kiſſed it, being not once a-

mazed or troubled, ſince her lord would have it ſo, only ſhe ſaid, I muſt friend intreat one thing at your hand, that out of humanity and Chriſtian love, you leave not the body to be devoured by beaſts and birds, for ſhe is worthy of a grave.

The man having got the child, durſt not tarry, but returned to his maſter, repeating every circumſtance of her anſwer that might agrandiſe her conſtancy.

The Marquis conſidering the great virtue of his wife, and looking on the beauty of his daughter, began to entertain ſome compaſſion, and to retract his wilfulnoſs; but at laſt reſolution won the field of pity, and having as he thought ſo well begun, would not ſo ſoon give over. But with the ſame ſecrecy he had taken her from his wife, he ſent her away to his ſiſter the Dutcheſs of Bologne, with preſents of worth, and letters of recommendation, containing in them the nature of the buſineſs, and the manner of her bringing up, which ſhe accordingly put into practice.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The Marquis makes a farther Trial of his Wife's Patience.

AS this patient and wonderful lady was one day ſporting with her infant ſon, like a tempeſt did this meſſenger of death interpoſe; yet, as if he was conſcious of diſquieting her greatneſs, he came forward with preamble, craving pardon of the lady, that the meſſage might ſeem blameleſs. He was not ſo ſudden in his demand, as ſhe was in her diſpatch; for ſhe immediately gave him this child alſo, with the ſame enforcements as ſhe had done the former.

In the like manner he returned to the Marquis, who had ſtill more cauſe for aſtoniſhment, and leſs reaſon to abuſe ſo obedient a wife; but for a time ſent this child likewiſe to his ſiſter, who underſtanding her brother's mind brought up the children in ſuch a manner, that tho' no man ever knew whoſe children they were, yet they ſuppoſed them to belong ſome great potentate.

The ordering the business in this manner, made the Marquis once again settle himself in Salus, where he kept an open house to all comers, and was proud of nothing but the love of his wife; for although he had more than once tried her patience, yet she never complained, but seemed to love him the more.

By this time his unkindness to her got spread among the people, who all admired and wondered at her for her constancy and patience.

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CHAP. VI.

Griſſel diſrobed, and ſent Home to her Father by her Husband; her Son and Daughter brought Home, under pretence of the Marquis's marrying her; Griſſel is ſent for to make preparations, and her Condeſcenſion thereon.

AFter this the Marquis was reſolved to put her to another trial, ſo ſent for her cloaths, and commanded her to go home again to her father's naked, except her ſhift; when being in the midſt of her nobility ſhe diſrobed herſelf, and returned back to her fathers cottage.——They could not but deplore the alteration of fortune; yet ſhe could not but ſmile that her virtue was predominant over her paſpaſſion.—They all exclaimed againſt the cruelty of her L rd; but ſhe uſed no invective. They wondered at her ſo great virtue and patience; ſhe anſwered, They were befitting a modeſt woman.

By this time they approached the houſe and old Janicola having before been ac-

quainted with it; and seeing his daughter only in her smock, amidst such honourable company, he ran into the house, and brought the robes she formerly wore, and

putting them on, said, Now thou art in thy element, and kissing her, bid her welcome. The company was in amaze at his moderation, and wondered how nature could be so restrained from passion, and that any woman could have so much grace and virtue. In which amaze not without some reprehension of fortune and their Lords cruelty, they left her to the poverty of the cell, and returned to the glory of the palace, where they recounted to the Marquis how she continued in her moderation and patience; and the father comforting her in her condition.

Not long after came the Dutcheſs of Bologne, with her glorious company, ſhe ſending word before hand ſhe ſhould be at Saluſs ſuch a day. Whereupon the Marquis ſent a troop to welcome her, and prepared a court for her entertainment. The effects of which were not agreeable ſome condemned the Marquis, whilſt others deplored his wife's misfortunes. Some were tranſported with the gallant youth and comely virgin that came along with the Dutcheſs, the latter of whom it was reported, the Marquis was going to marry; nor did the Duke nor Princeſs know themſelves to be the children of the Marquis, but appeared as ſtrangers, deſigned to be at this new marriage.

The next morning after their arrival, he ſent a meſſenger for Griſſel, bidding her come and ſpeak with him juſt in the dreſs ſhe then was; upon which ſhe immediately waited on her Lord. At her approach he was ſomewhat abaſhed, but recovering his ſpirits he thus addreſſed her:

"Griſſel, the Lady with whom I muſt marry, will be here to-morrow by this time, and the feaſt is prepared according

ly. Now becauſe there is none ſo well acquainted with the ſecrets of my palace, and diſpoſition of myſelf but you, I would have you, for all this baſe attire, addreſs your wiſdom to the ordering of the buſineſs, appointing ſuch officers as are befitting, and diſpoſing of the rooms according to the degrees and eſtates of the perſons.—Let the Lady have the privilege of the marriage chamber, and the young Lord the pleaſure of the gallery. Let the wines be plentiful, and the ceremonies be maintained.—In a word, let nothing be wanting which may ſet forth my honour and delight the people.

"My Lord, ſaid ſhe, I ever told you, That I took pleaſure in nothing but your contentment, and in whatſoever might conform to your delight. Herein conſiſted my joy and happineſs, therefore make no queſtion of my diligence and duty in this, or any thing you ſhall pleaſe to impoſe upon me.'—And ſo like a poor ſervant ſhe preſently addreſſed herſelf to the buſineſs of the houſe, performing all things with ſuch diſpatch and quickneſs that each one wondered at her goodneſs and fair demeanor: and many murmured to ſee

her put to ſuch a trial. But the day of the entertainment being come, and when the fair Lady approached, ſhe looked exceeding beautiful, inſomuch that ſome began not to blame the Marquis for her change. At length Griſſel taking the lady by the hand, thus addreſſed her:

"Lady, if it were not his pleaſure that may command, to bid you welcome, yet methinks there is a kind of over-ruling grace from nature in you, which muſt extort a reſpect unto you. — And as for you, young Lord, I can ſay no more, but if I might have my deſires, they ſhould be employed to wiſh you well. — To the reſt I afford all that is fit for entertainment, hoping they will excuſe whatever they ſee amiſs." And ſo conducted them

to their ſeveral apartments, where they agreeably repoſed themſelves till it was dinner time.—When all things were thus prepared, the Marquis ſent for his Griſſel, and ſtanding up, took her by the hand, and thus expreſſed himſelf to her:

"You ſee the Lady is here I mean to marry, and the company aſſembled to witneſs it: Are you therefore dontented I ſhall thus diſpoſe of myſelf? and do you moſt quietly ſubmit to the alteration?"

"My Lord, replied ſhe, before them all, in what as a woman I might be found faulty, I will not now diſpute; but becauſe I am your wife, and have devoted myſelf to obedience, I am reſolved to delight myſelf in your pleaſure; ſo if this match be deſigned for your good, I am ſatisfied, and more than much contented. And for your lady, I wiſh her the delights of marriage, the honour of her husband, many years happineſs, and the fruits of a true and chaſte wedlock. — Only great Lord, take care of one thing, That you try not your new bride as you did your old wife; for ſhe is young, and perhaps wants the patience which poor I have endured."

'Till this he held out bravely, but now could not forbear burſting into tears, and all the company wondered at it; but the next chapter will happily conclude the whole ſtory.

CHAP. VII.

The Marquis's Speech to his Wife, and the Diſcovery of the Children.

AFter the Marquis had recovered himſelf, he thus addreſſed his patient wife Griſſel: — Thou Wonder of Women, and Champion of true Virtue! I am aſhamed of my imperfections, and tired with abuſing thee; I have tried thee beyond all modeſty.———Believe me, therefore, I will have no wife but thyſelf and therefore ſeeing I have uſed you ſo unkindly heretofore, I proteſt never to diſquiet thee any more; and wherein my cruelty extended againſt thee in bereaving thee of thy children, my love ſhall now make amends in reſtoring thee thy ſon and daughter; for this my new bride

s ſhe. and this young Lord her brother. Thank this good Lady my ſiſter for the ringing them up; and this man, you know him well enough, for his ſecrecy. have related the truth, and will confirm with my honour and this kiſs; only t down till the dinner is come, and then id the company welcome, even in this oor array."

The Marquis thus tenderly treating her, nd diſcovering who the young Lord and Lady was, gave the nobility a freſh opportunity to ſhew their obedience; the which they immediately did to all three; nd the dinner being over, none was ſo eady to attire Griſſel as her daughter, who was more glad than diſappointed at his ſo ſudden a change.——Janicola was ent for to court, and ever after he was he Marquis's counſellor. The ſervant was alſo well rewarded for his fidelity; nd the Dutcheſs returned to her palace, eaving her brother and ſiſter to live and eign in peace. — In length of time the Marquis died, and Griſſel lived thirty-hree years after him, and then died in good old age; being a pattern for all omen after, who might have their vir-

tue or patience tried in the like, or an
other manner, not to diſtruſt an all-wi
Providence, who when he ſeemeth mo
to frown, oftentimes is about bleſſing
his creatures with the ſun-ſhine of pro
perity.—On the other hand her exampl
ſhould teach us Content, though in mea
and abject circumſtances; conſidering
is not the pleaſure of the Divine Will
bleſs all people alike with affluence.

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